CIDAC TL 3124
Centro de Documentação
24. JAN 1985

EAST TIMOR : US AMBASSADOR CRITISIZES FOREIGN PRESS

US Ambassador to Indonesia John H.Holdridge has expressed the hope that reports on Indonesia by the foreign press should be in accordance with the real situation, free from any exaggeration.

He made this statement in his adress at a luncheon by the Asia Society in New York recently, according to information received here Friday from the Indonesian Consulate General in New York. The Ambassador gave an account of the situation in Indonesia and of US relations with Indonesia. "I did not encounter any feelings of dissatisfaction among the people in the region I visited", he said. The foreign reports on famine and basic human right violations in East Timor were over-exaggerated, he said.

The Indonesian government is implementing development in that region at great expenses. For the purpose the US (USAID) has been requested to hold an agricultural survey there. He further said, the Indonesian government is not obstructing international organizations to visit East Timor.

The Ambassador also said that the political relations between Indonesia and the US were positive, strong and successful and there were no obstacles. He had to admit however that in the economical field there was a small obstruction caused by the import quota imposed by the US on Indonesian textiles. Holdridge further explained about the circumstances of the postponement of President Reagan's visit to Indonesia. "If he is reelected as President, he will not forget his promise to visit Indonesia", he said.

ANTARA/OANA - November 2, 1984.